

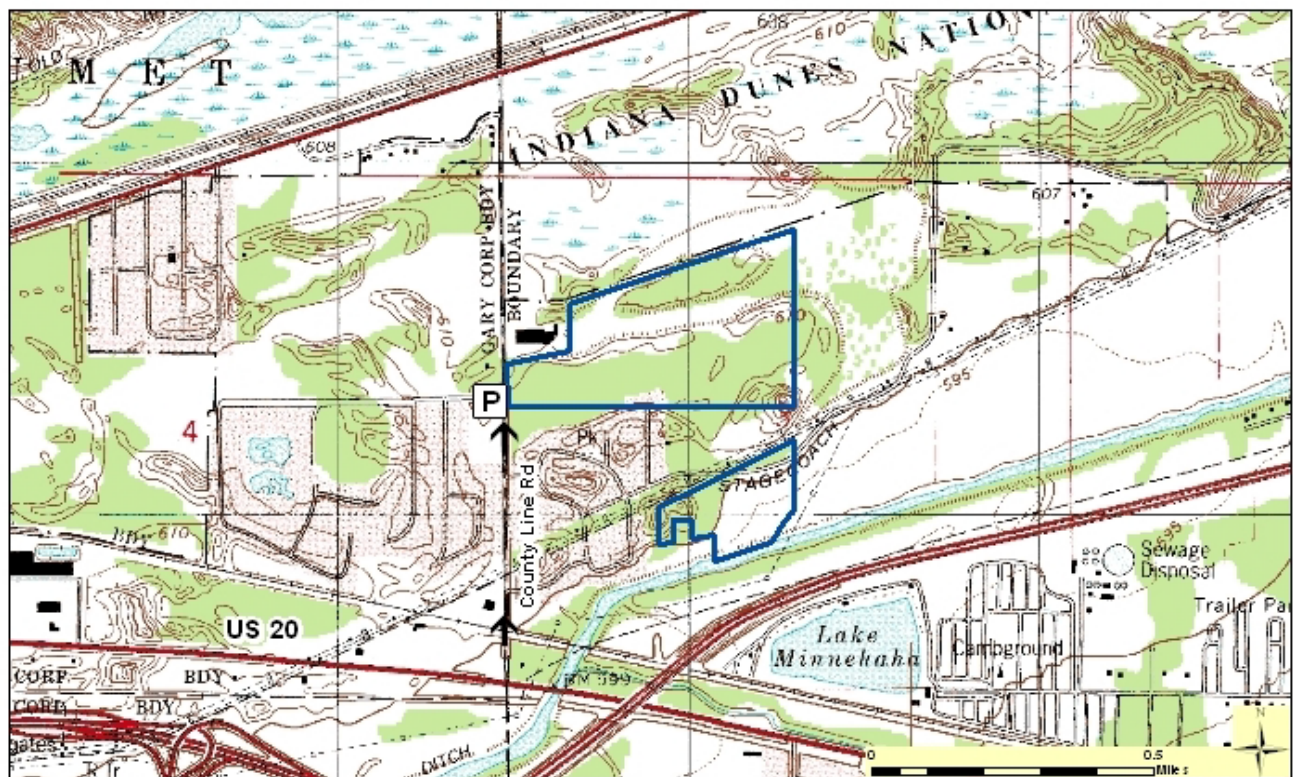
Coulter Nature Preserve (John Merle Coulter)

County: Porter Size: 84.23 acres
Ownership: Shirley Heinze Land Trust



Location and Access

Pull-off parking and (old railroad bed) trail. From US 20 (Melton Rd), on the north side of Lake Station, turn north onto County Line Rd and go about 0.5 mile to 5th Ave. Park along 5th Ave. Enter the preserve from County Line Rd. An old railroad bed serves as an informal trail. The trail difficulty is easy.



Description: This preserve encompasses a number of ecosystems, including sand prairie, dunes, black oak savanna, and sedge meadows. It presents spectacular wildflower displays through-out the growing season, beginning with bird's-foot violets, wild columbine, mayflower, puccoon, and lupine in the spring. Summer brings prickly pear cactus, wild roses, butterfly weed. Prairie plants—blazing star, goldenrod, asters—are at their best in late summer and fall, and autumn is especially beautiful as oaks, sassafras, and sumacs show off their fall colors. Ken Dritz, sedge and grass expert, recorded 205 native plants here over 25 years ago. This number has now swelled to over 300. The area also has a long animal list. A bequest from the estate of Faith and Gordon Greiner to the Heinze Trust allowed partnerships to form with the Indiana Heritage Trust, DNR, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy to purchase this unique landscape.

Further Information:

Shirley Heinze Land Trust, 109 West 700 North, Valparaiso, IN 46385 (219) 242-8558. www.heinzetrust.org
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Indiana Department of Nature Preserves